

*That they may have life...in all its fullness*



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January to March 2025

# STREET VOICE

QUARTERLY NEWS LETTER

## EDITORIAL

### Remembering the Saint...

St. John Bosco, also known as Don Bosco, was a compassionate young priest who devoted his life to helping orphaned and homeless child laborers in Turin, Italy. In 1859, inspired by the example of St. Francis de Sales, Don Bosco founded the Salesians, an organization dedicated to befriending, educating, and assisting impoverished boys. Don Bosco believed that the purpose of education was to help young people become virtuous citizens through the foundational pillars of reason, religion, and friendship. He emphasized the importance of viewing students as individuals created by God, capable of distinguishing right from wrong. For Don Bosco, education was a matter of the heart, and he believed that no one understands a child's heart better than God, the Creator of the Universe. As a result, he practiced the Preventive System of Education, which addresses the mistakes of young people—who are often changeable and forgetful—by not merely condoning these errors, but using them as opportunities to build solid character.

Don Bosco left behind a lasting legacy. Let his ideals, spirit, and tireless efforts continue to inspire us as we strive to uphold and perpetuate his work on Earth for the poor, downtrodden, and underprivileged children and youth.

Fr. KJ Joseph SDB

## BOSCO DIARY

January to  
March 2025

- Awareness Campaigns
- Value Education Classes
- Life Skills
- Meetings
- Youth Parliament
- Training and Workshops
- Celebrations and Campaigns: Don Bosco's Month, National Youth Day, Makara Sankranti Celebration, Republic Day, Past Pupils' Gathering, BOSCO Cup 2K25, International Women's Day, BOSCO Nivas Inauguration
- BOSCO Annual Essay Writing Competition 2024-25
- Karate Belt Grading Exam, Health Camps and Eye Screening Camps
- Exposure Visits
- Certificate Distribution
- Focus Group Discussion

## AWARENESS PROGRAMMES

### Public Awareness

Public awareness programmes on child rights and child protection were conducted in the bus stands, KR Market area, Shivaji Nagar area, Gandhi Nagar, railway stations, moving trains by the BOSCO teams during the quarter. Nearly 2500 public, commuters and passengers were benefited from the awareness sessions.

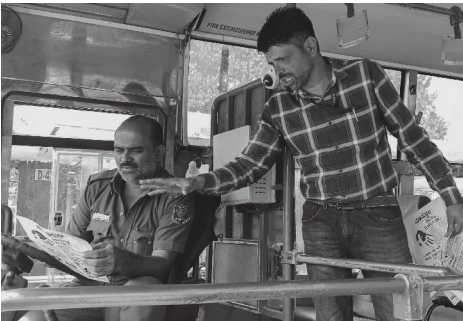




## Awareness for Stakeholders

**T**eams working in Gandhi Nagar, Bus Stand, Child Safety Net Project, CRISP Project, and Nivas, conducted awareness for the BBMP Pourakarmikas, Anganwadi teachers and helpers, bus drivers

and conductors and auto drivers during January to March 2025. Around thousand and five hundred stakeholders were reached out to through these programmes.



## Community Awareness

**A**wareness sessions on child rights, child laws, child protection and children in conflict with the law were held at Vijinapura near KR Puram and Ambedkar Nagar by ARSP team; KG Nagar, Flower Garden and Bhangi Colony by Juvenile Advocacy programme and Vyamam Shaala by Nilaya team. 230 households were given information about BOSCO, child rights, laws and acts.





## Awareness Programme for School Children

The BOSCO ARSP, CSN and the team working in Magadi Road conducted school awareness during the quarter. Mr. Harish, ASI/BNC explained the activities of police station and showed some equipment like handcuffs, pistol and police badge. He also



gave some safety tips for children. A total of two hundred and seventy-nine children, five teachers, three police officials and BOSCO Staffs were part of the sessions.

## Health Awareness

Health Awareness sessions were organized for the youths of BOSCO Sumanahalli, Yuvakendra, children of BOSCO Nivas and BOSCO Rainbow Home by the BOSCO Health Care Department at the respective centres during January, February and March 2025. Ms. Uma and the team, St. Martha's Hospital, Bengaluru gave information on personal hygiene and menstrual hygiene. All the centre children were part of the awareness.



## Foster Care Awareness

BOSCO Foster Care Programme organized awareness sessions on the concept of foster care for the SHG Members, Anganwadi Teachers, Mothers, PRI Members, and Primary School Teachers of Bengaluru Urban and Rural during the quarter. Obalesh and Hanumantha, Social Mobilizers, BOSCO Foster Care Programme introduced Foster Care to the participants and highlighted the importance of alternative family care for those children deprived of a family. Over a two hundred stakeholders benefited from the programme.



## Awareness for the Parents

BOSCO Yuvodaya organized awareness sessions for the parents who visited the centre during the CWC sittings in the quarter. Fr. Johnson, Director, BOSCO Yuvodaya, and Ms. Vinnarasi, Team Member addressed the parents and stressed the importance of



creating a supportive environment for the development of children at home. They urged parents to ensure their children get an education as it is their right. Group counselling was also done for the parents during the programmes. More than a hundred parents were reached out to through these programmes.

## MEETINGS

### Meeting with Government Officials

BOSCO Foster Care Programme organized a meeting with the Government Officials at Government School, Geddalahalli, Nelamanagala, Bengaluru Rural on January 11, 2025 to make the Govt Officials know the concept of foster care, adoption, eligibility of children and parents, follow up procedures, documents required, role of Child Welfare Committee and District Child Protection Officer. Obalesh, Social Mobilizer, BOSCO Foster Care Programme, requested the Govt Officials to spread the message of foster care, so that more and more prospective foster parents and prospective foster children are identified. He also briefed about BOSCO activities and its services. Seven Officials were present in the meeting.



### Caring Community Group Meeting

The outreach team working in the Gandhi Nagar area organized a meeting of the Caring Community Group (CCG) at BOSCO Yuvodaya on February 15, 2025. Key speakers included Mr. Basavaraju K. M., Coordinator of the Gandhi Nagar Area; Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director of BOSCO Bengaluru; and Fr. Johnson, Project Director. They provided information about BOSCO's activities, child protection mechanisms, and practical guidance on safeguarding children from harm. They also appreciated the support and collaboration of the CCG members in creating a 'Child-Safe Environment' in the area. CCG members shared their personal challenges and experiences related to protecting child rights. The meeting resolved to form a Child Safety Community Force, comprising individuals



from various sectors, to establish a child-friendly setting in the Gandhi Nagar area. Participants agreed to create a WhatsApp group for easier communication regarding any issues concerning the vulnerability of children. A total of twenty-one participants including Mr. Hemanth, CWC Member; Mr. Mallikarjun, Social Worker; Mr. Dillibabu, Editor; BBMP Supervisor and staff; the Head Nurse of the PHC in Gandhi Nagar; social workers; shop owners; ASHA workers; and other community members were a part of the meeting.



## Planning and Monitoring Meeting for Districts Project Staff

Foster Care, BOSCO Bengaluru, organized one day Planning and Monitoring Meeting for Districts Project Staff at BOSCO Yuvodaya, Bengaluru, on February 22, 2025. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, began his remarks by announcing that BOSCO has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with various government officials, including those from the Foster Care system, Labour Department, and Police Officers.

Asha HK, District Child Protection Officer (DCPO), West Division, exhorted that social mobilizers understand their roles and responsibilities and play a crucial part in fostering a connection between BOSCO and Government officials. Fr. P S George, Executive Director, BREADS, addressed several challenges posed by funding agencies. The first session on the criteria to be adhered to during monitoring visits, as well



as the responsibilities of District Directors, DCPO/PO NIC, and Social Mobilizers was facilitated by Fr. Varghese Pallipuram. The second session conducted by Mr. Kantharaju, PO NIC, Hassan, covered the procedures outlined in the JJ Act regarding placements. Around twenty-six members from twenty districts participated in the meeting.

## Parents' Meetings

BOSCO CRISP, Nivas, Nilaya and the team working in Gandhi Nagar held meetings with the parents of the children of the tuition centres and explained in detail about BOSCO, child rights and issues related to children. They also shed light on parenting skills, being observant of their children, identifying the problems of the children, being responsive, interactive, encouraging, motivating, and respecting the children's views. Around hundred parents participated in the meetings.

BOSCO Rainbow Home, Mane and Vikas organized parents' meeting at their respective centres during the quarter. The objective of the meetings was to create a common platform where staff and parents come together to discuss the children's performance and devise

ways to enrich the learning experience. Speaking on the occasion, the Directors briefed the gathering about the summer vacation. Hundred and fifty parents and guardians attended the meetings.



## Adolescent Girls' Meetings

BOSCO Nilaya, Nivas and team working in Magadi Road Area conducted meetings with the adolescent girls in their intervention areas during the quarter. During the interaction with the girls, the teams focused on health and hygiene, menstrual

hygiene, drinking water frequently to avoid dehydration, personal safety, child helpline and care to be taken while choosing friends. Around hundred and sixty girls participated in the meetings.



## LIFE SKILL SESSIONS

Life Skill Sessions on Friendship, Self-acceptance and Self-esteem, Communication, Emotional Intelligence, Problem Solving and Critical thinking, Time Management and Organization and Self Awareness, Financial Literacy, Team work and Collaboration, Leadership and Initiative, Cultural Awareness and Diversity, Community Service and Volunteering, Conflict Resolution and

Negotiation, Goal Setting and Achievement, Self-Discipline and Responsibility, Resilience and Adaptability, Mindfulness and Self-care, Personal Safety and Boundaries, Cooking and Nutrition, First aid and Safety and Environmental Awareness were held by BOSCO Rainbow Home, Yuvakendra, Sumanahalli and Vikas. Hundred and four children benefited from the sessions.



## VALUE EDUCATION SESSIONS

### Value Education Sessions





Value education sessions on Confidentiality, Respect and Significance of Education and Simple Writing Techniques



were held for the children in BOSCO Rainbow Home, Yuvakendra, Yuvaspandana and Nilaya. Seventy-eight children were a part of these sessions.

## MEDICAL CAMPS

### Health Camp at BOSCO Centres

Maharshi Ayurveda and Asha Kirana Trust conducted a health camp for the youths of BOSCO Sumanahalli on January 9, 2025. Dr. Swathi suggested further follow up and treatment for a better oral health. Twenty-six attended the camp.

Department of Health Care, BOSCO Bengaluru organized health camps for the open shelter boys, centre children and youths at BOSCO Yuvodaya, Yuvakendra, Rainbow Home, Vatsalya Bhavan, Mane and Vikas in the quarter. Dr. Abraham, St. Martha's Hospital, Bengaluru conducted the camps. The doctor exhorted the children to improve their oral hygiene. The doctor suggested that the children be given protein-rich food. They were prescribed medicines for

colds, coughs, and skin problems. Ninety-seven children benefited from the camps.



### Eye Screening Camps

BOSCO Health Care Department in coordination with Shraddha Eye Clinic and The Eye Foundation organized Eye Screening camps for the children and the community people at Rajiv Gandhi Colony, Shivajinagar and Yuvaspandana, JC Road January 12, 2025 respectively. Four people were referred for cataract surgery which would be done free of cost, seven were asked to use spectacles from Rajiv Gandhi Colony, eleven adults were referred for cataract follow up and ten children for further treatment from J C Road. A

total of forty-seven adults from Rajiv Gandhi Colony and eighty adults and children from JC Road attended the camps.

An eye checkup camp was organized for the children of BOSCO Rainbow Home by the Optical Eye Foundation on January 14, 2025. One girl was diagnosed with cataract problem and eight girls were referred for further eye checkup. Fifty-one girls and six staff benefited from the camp.



## TRAININGS AND WORKSHOPS

### Training for Government School Teachers

BOSCO Foster Care Programme conducted a training session for the teachers of Government Primary School, Thyamagondlu Cluster, Nelamangala Bengaluru Rural on January 11, 2025. Obalesh, Social Mobilizer, BOSCO Foster Care Programme introduced the teachers to BOSCO and its activities, Foster Care concept and Adoption. He explained in detail regarding the foster care procedures, eligibility of children and parents for this programme, legal procedures, duration of foster care, roles and responsibilities of the government agencies like CWC and DCPU. He also made them aware of the support expected by them in disseminating the information and identifying the prospective parents and children for foster care. Forty-two teachers were involved in the training.



### Teachers Training Programmes

BOSCO CRISP Project conducted two training programmes on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) for the teachers of Chikkanahalli, Nelamangala and Hosahalli, Vijayanagar during January 2025 to enhance teachers' knowledge and understanding of the CRC and its implications for education; to promote child-centered education and encourage teachers to adopt a child-rights-based approach in their teaching practices. Joseph Raj, Coordinator, Nagaraj and Anand, Social Activists, BOSCO CRISP Project explained in detail about UNCRC and its principles, child's right to education: Article 28 and 29 of the UNCRC, creating a child-friendly and inclusive learning environment and promoting child participation and involvement in decision-making processes, addressing child protection concerns, building partnerships with parents and



communities and enhancing Teacher-Child relationships. PDOs, DDPIs and fifty-five teachers were part of the training.

### Staff Induction Training

Human Resource Department, BOSCO Bengaluru organized an Induction Training for the newly recruited staff on January 17, 2025. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru welcomed the staff with introductory words. He took a session on the Programmes and Services at BOSCO including the Nelamangala project and Migrant Help





Desk programme. This session gave staff a clear understanding on the overall work taking place and the programmes and projects carried out at BOSCO. Mr. Shivamallu and Mr. Ramaswamy took a session on Child Laws and Child Rights. Staff was made aware of importance of child laws and child rights

Fr. Jude Anand, Director, BOSCO Sumanahalli engaged the staff in the session on Don Bosco's Preventive System of Education. Staff

was involved in group activities and discussion. Activity based learning and video clips related to personality development made staff reflect themselves on their role in BOSCO. Mr. Prashanth Murthy, HR Manager explained about HR Policy of BOSCO. Induction session came to an end with the concluding remarks by Fr. Varghese Pallipuram. Twenty-eight new staff participated in the training.

## Training on Emotional Freedom Techniques

**E**nhance Emotions – Empower Lives, an Emotional Freedom Techniques (EFT) Training was held on January 24 and March 4, 2025 at BOSCO Yuvodaya for the Child Care Givers of BOSCO. The training aimed to equip caregivers with a practical knowledge for managing stress, to improve their emotional well-being and at creating a more positive and supportive environment for the children under their care. The training was conducted by EFT and Matrix Reimprinting Academy, India. Mridula Nair, Resource Person, explained the emotional freedom techniques in detail through group discussions, practical exercises and demonstrations.

The training covered the basics of EFT, including how it works, the different tapping points and how to use positive affirmations to escape from stress and thereby enhance emotional well-being. Participants practiced applying EFT to different emotional scenarios and discussed how EFT can help them navigate challenging situations with children. The training emphasized the importance of self-acceptance and creating a supportive environment for both the children and themselves. Seventy-four staff including Fr. Johnson, Director BOSCO Yuvodaya participated in the training.



## Empowering Migrant Construction Workers- Workshop on Substance Abuse

**T**he Labour Migration Unit of the Indian Social Institute (ISI), Bengaluru, in collaboration with MAX Organization and BOSCO Bengaluru conducted a workshop for migrant construction workers at the Shriram Property building site in Bengaluru on February 6, 2025.

Fr. Samir Minj, Head, Labour Migration Unit, Bengaluru, led the session on substance abuse, shedding light on its harmful effects on life, work, health, mind, body, finances, and relationships. He emphasized how addiction can become a destructive force in one's life, affecting both personal and professional well-being. Fr. Samir also provided practical guidance on overcoming bad habits, encouraging workers to take control of their lives. He assured them that with determination and effort, they could break free from addiction, leading to a happier family life and a brighter future.



The session was interactive, with workers actively engaging in discussions and sharing their experiences. More than 100 migrant workers from Bihar, West Bengal, Jharkhand, and Uttar Pradesh participated in this insightful session.

## Child Rights Club Leadership Trainings

**C**hild Rights Integrated Services Project (CRISP), BOSCO Bengaluru conducted Child Rights Club (CRC) Leadership Trainings at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Boys' Hostel, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru Urban, Thyamagondalu and Bairanayakanahalli Boys Government Hostels Nelamangala, Bengaluru Rural on Feb 20 and 22, 2025 respectively. With more than hundred and fifty enthusiastic children from different schools and CRC members, the sessions focused on

leadership, child rights, and empowerment. The sessions were filled with learning, interaction, and skill-building to help young minds become future leaders.

Impressed by the impact, the hostel warden of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Boys' Hostel requested CRISP team to conduct these training sessions every month for the hostel children.



## Orientation Programme



An orientation programme was held for Social Work students from Norway, who visited through Christ College, Bengaluru, at BOSCO Yuvodaya on March 5, 2025. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, the Executive Director of BOSCO Bengaluru, provided an overview of the organization's history, vision, mission, programmes, projects, activities, challenges, structure, and systems through a PowerPoint presentation and related videos. The students expressed their interest in collaborating with BOSCO for a research programme. They inquired about the Foster Care project and raised questions regarding the challenges faced by staff, particularly concerning language barriers. Additionally, the students interacted with the children and staff at Yuvodaya. A total of eighteen students attended the session.

## KSRTC Officials Training Programme

BOSCO organized a training programme for KSRTC officials at the KSRTC DC Office, Majestic Bus Stand, on March 6, 2025. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director of BOSCO Bengaluru, briefed the officials on BOSCO's activities and their role in child protection. Mr. Shivamallu, Coordinator, Foster Care Programme, explained child laws, foster care and adoption. Mr. P.N. Basavaraju, Coordinator, CSN, spoke on CWC procedures and child rights. Mr. S.N. Arun, Senior Divisional Controller (DC), KSRTC, highlighted the challenges faced by children and the need for intervention. Mrs. Prabha Javali, Assistant Traffic Manager (ATM), KSRTC, participated in the session. BOSCO Bus Stand staff shared their experiences, stating that during the project year 362 children were rescued, 11 of whom were assisted by KSRTC officials. Mr. S.N. Arun appreciated BOSCO's efforts and officials assured continued support. The



session strengthened BOSCO's collaboration with KSRTC and BMTC for child protection. Sixty-eight KSRTC officials attended the programme.

## Tuition Teachers Training Programme

BOSCO Bengaluru organized a capacity building programme for the tuition teachers at BOSCO Yuvodaya on March 15, 2025. It aimed at capacitating the teachers on basic teaching skills. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, provided an overview of BOSCO and discussed the impact of study

centers in the community. Following this, Fr. K.J. Joseph, Director of BOSCO Mane and Vikas, conducted a session on "How to Handle Mathematics Sessions Easily and Effectively." He introduced various tricks and techniques that can help teachers effectively teach mathematics. The second session was led by Mr. Ramaswamy,





Coordinator, Juvenile Advocacy and focused on “Child Rights Clubs (CRC).” He emphasized the importance of children’s participation in these clubs,

which not only enhance their extracurricular activities and talents but also educate them about child rights, child abuse, and how to report violations, thereby helping them become responsible citizens. The third session, delivered by Mr. John Joshua, Coordinator, HLK Programme focused on “Documentation.” He introduced a reporting format for collecting information about tuition students. He also demonstrated how to use the DIGI tool and encouraged teachers to enter student information themselves. The programme concluded with a general discussion, during which the teachers shared their plans for the next three months, discussed challenges they faced, and shared their experiences. A total of 26 tuition teachers benefited from this training programme.

## Training on First Aid

**T** raining programme on First Aid was organized by BOSCO Health Care Department for the staff of the organization, at St. Martha’s Nursing College, Bengaluru, on March 19, 2025. The Faculty of the college facilitated the sessions. The session started with an explanation of the structure and functions of the human body. First aid was defined as an immediate treatment that is given to a person on an emergency basis. They explained the aim and the rules of first aid. They gave information about the various health problems like nasal bleeding, foreign bodies in the eyes, ears, mouth and nose, injuries, dog bite, snake bite, insect bite, fever, common cold, fire burns, etc., and the immediate treatment that could be given. The session also included first aid information on heart attacks, epilepsy, electric shocks, heat strokes,



coins or different objects swallowed by children, difficulty in breathing, and different types of fractures. Twenty-one staff from different centres, areas and projects of BOSCO attended the training.

## EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS

### New Year Celebration at BOSCO

**O** n the occasion of the New Year, Officials of Chamaraipet Police Station visited BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan and celebrated the New Year with children on January 1, 2025. KP Agrahara Police Personnel and Taj Restaurant Management celebrated the New Year with BOSCO Yuvakendra children. They thanked BOSCO for allowing the officials to celebrate the new year with children. Wilson Garden Traffic Police Station Officials visited Rainbow Home and celebrated New Year with the centre children. Ms. Shashikala, S.P., ACP, Traffic Central Subdivision and Ms. Kathyayini, Traffic Police Inspector encouraged the children to achieve academic success in order to have a brighter future. BOSCO Vikas and Mane celebrated New Year with the symbolic burning of the “Old Man” of 2024, bidding the farewell to the past



year and the welcoming of 2025. Fr. KJ Joseph, Director, BOSCO Mane and Vikas emphasized the importance of letting go of negative feelings and thoughts, encouraging everyone to embrace the new opportunities that come with the upcoming year. The celebrations included cutting of the cake and sharing sweets with the children, along with entertainment programmes. All the centre children participated in the celebrations.



## National Youth Day

BOSCO Nivas and Yuvakendra celebrated National Youth Day as a part of Swami Vivekananda's birth anniversary at their centres on January 12, 2025. The Coordinator, BOSCO Nivas and Counsellor, BOSCO Yuvakendra briefed about the significance of National Youth Day. They narrated the childhood story of Swami Vivekananda and his quotes on youth. The staff raised awareness on the need to ensure the participation of youth in the modern world and in Nation-building while upholding their values. They

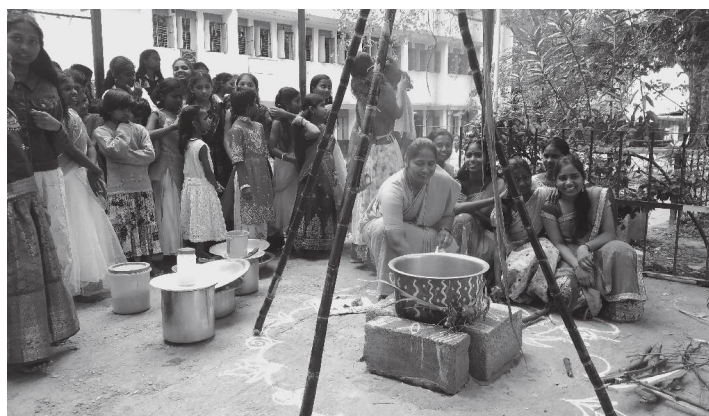
highlighted the importance of yoga and meditation. They said that Swami Vivekananda believed that youth can transform the fate of India through their hard work, education, dedication, and spiritual power. His vision for youth empowerment relevant in the modern context was made known to the youths. A signature campaign was organized in St. Joseph's College to enlighten the youth about their roles and responsibilities. All the students of St. Joseph's College and twenty-two boys of Yuvakendra attended the celebrations.



## Makara Sankranti Celebrations

BOSCO Nivas, Vikas, Mane, Vatsalya Bhavan, Rainbow Home, Yuvakendra and ARSP Project celebrated Makara Sankranti on January 14, 2025 at their respective centres. The celebrations started by invoking the Almighty's blessings through a prayer song. The Directors of the centres spoke about the significance of the festival. Children were told that Sankranti heralded the harvesting of crops and the change in the direction of the Sun from one zodiac

sign to another. It was also mentioned that though the harvest festival is known by different names in the different regions of our country, the celebration signifies thanks giving to the Almighty for his bounty. Sweets and sugarcane were distributed to the children and youth. All the children from BOSCO centres and Tuition children from BOSCO ARSP Project were part of the celebrations.





## Republic Day Celebration at BOSCO Mane and Vikas

The 76th Republic Day was celebrated with flag hoisting in the premises of BOSCO Mane on January 26, 2025. Mallikarjun, Coordinator, BOSCO Vikas welcomed the gathering. Fr. K.J. Joseph, Director, BOSCO Mane and Vikas presided over the function and hoisted the flag. Speaking on the occasion, he explained about the history and importance of the day. He said that the constitution has given us everything. He exhorted that the children read the constitution to grow as responsible citizens in the society. The programme concluded by distributing sweets to everyone and thanking them. Eighty children along with the staff participated in the flag hoisting.



## BOSCO Nivas Centre Inauguration

The new centre of BOSCO Nivas, Bengaluru situated on the premises of St. Xavier's School, was inaugurated on January 31, 2025 in the august presence of Rev. Fr. Jose Koyickal SDB, Provincial, Bangalore Province, Rev. Fr. Jayanathan, Vice President and Secretary, ABE, Rev. Fr. Martin Kumar, Chancellor and Parish Priest, St. Mary's Basilica, Rev. Fr. Rayappa, Secretary, ABE, Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, and Directors of BOSCO Bengaluru. Fr. Jose Koyickal blessed the centre by reciting the Bible verses. Fr. Jayanathan, in his keynote address, appreciated BOSCO for its unwavering commitment to the welfare of children and community people of Shivajinagar. Fr. Martin congratulated BOSCO for starting the new centre and remembered his association with it in the past years. Fr. Rayappa and Fr. Varghese Pallipuram spoke on the occasion. Fathers on the dais were felicitated. Fr. Arogya Raj, Director, BOSCO Nivas welcomed the gathering and Mr. Shivamallu, State Coordinator, BOSCO Foster Care Programme



proposed the vote of thanks. Fr. Mathew Vadakkal, Ms. Sheeba Thomas, Director, BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan, Sisters, HMs, and Teachers of St. Theresa's Schools and staff of BOSCO Bengaluru were present on the occasion.

## Past Pupil's Gathering



BOSCO Bengaluru organized the gathering of past pupils at BOSCO Mane on February 16, 2025. The event commenced with a prayer dance performed by the children from BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan. The welcome address was delivered by Mr. Tippeswamy, Programme Manager, BOSCO Bengaluru. The dignitaries inaugurated the event by lighting the lamp, symbolizing the enlightenment and unity of the past pupils. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, in his address, emphasized the purpose of the gathering and highlighted the



importance of each BOSCO center conducting such reunions, as every individual who has passed through the organization carries a significant imprint of its impact on his/her life.

Mr. Adithya from Azim Premji Foundation reflected on his personal journey, stating that he felt at home with the group as he, too, had risen in life after facing similar challenges. He praised BOSCO for its remarkable impact on the lives of those present. Rev. Fr. Siju, Director, Don Bosco Mysore inspired the gathering by sharing stories of famous personalities, illustrating how each individual's life



serves as a motivation for others. He invited participants to share their personal experiences, and several attendees came forward to express their insights, further inspiring the gathering. Following the sharing session, suggestions were collected from the past pupils, fostering a spirit of collaboration and continuous improvement. The event also featured cultural performances by BOSCO Vikas

and BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan children. After lunch, the participants were divided into two groups and took part in engaging games. They were later awarded certificates in recognition of their participation. Directors of BOSCO and hundred and twenty five past pupils participated in the event.

## BOSCO Cup 2K25

'BOSCO Cup 2K25', a Staff Sports Day and Cultural Programme for BOSCO staff was organized at BOSCO Sumanahalli, Bengaluru on March 8, 2025. The event took off with lighting the lamp. The Olympic Torch was borne and lit by the Vice-captains representing the four teams. Addressing the gathering, Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, wished the women staff a very 'Happy Women's Day'. Talking about the event, he said, "It is a special day for the staff of BOSCO as they come together, spend time with each other, and know each other. It is also an opportunity for the staff to showcase their talents and skills. It is not about winning or losing, exhibiting sportsmanship is important."

The staffs were divided into four groups - BOSCO Lions, BOSCO Cheetahs, BOSCO Bulls and BOSCO Panthers. The morning session included dance competition, a 4X100 mts relay, 200 mts running race, throw ball for the female staff, and volleyball for the male staff. In the afternoon, cricket for the male staff, bombing the city, filling the water bottles, and tug of war for both groups were organized. The day concluded with the distribution of prizes. The referees for the sports events were felicitated. Ms. Usha Nayak, Coordinator, BOSCO Mane welcomed the gathering and Fr. KJ Joseph, Director, BOSCO Mane proposed the vote of thanks. The directors and around hundred staff of BOSCO participated in the event.



## Women's Day Celebration at the BOSCO Centres

BOSCO Nivas, Nilaya and Yuvaspandana celebrated International Women's Day on March 15 and 18, 2025 at their respective centres. The celebration included cake cutting, fun games and motivational talks by the guests. Course completion certificates were distributed to the youths who completed their computer course at BOSCO Yuvaspandana. Prizes were distributed to the winners. All participating women were given gifts as a token of appreciation. The event was filled with joy, encouragement, and community spirit. Mrs. Anuradha, Revenue Inspector, Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Fr. Arogya Raj, Director, BOSCO Nivas, Fr. Deepu, Director, BOSCO Nilaya and Yuvaspandana, mothers of children attending tuition classes and Anganwadi teachers graced the occasion.







## » DON BOSCO'S MONTH «

### Inauguration of Don Bosco's Month

Don Bosco's month celebrated as "Yuva Premi Masostava" was inaugurated at all the centres of BOSCO, in the presence of children and youth, from January 2 to 6, 2025. The representatives of each center and area along with their Directors garlanded the



statue of the saint. The directors of the centers enlightened the children on the life of the priest, founder, father and teacher of the youth, St. John Bosco. All the centre and area children and youth participated in the event.

### BOSCO Annual Quiz Contest 2025

Don Bosco Annual Quiz competition for the children of BOSCO was held at BOSCO Sumanahalli on January 18, 2025. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, Fr. Jude Anand, Director, BOSCO Sumanahalli, and Child Representatives inaugurated the programme.

Teams representing High School Children and Primary School Children of different centres and areas of BOSCO participated in the competition. The quiz masters Br. Ajay and Br. Akhil, BOSCO,



Bengaluru conducted the programme. The quiz comprised eight rounds. The rounds included general rounds, individual rounds, puzzle round, hold the flag round, buzzer round, rapid fire round and find me round. Children from BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan emerged as the winners and runners-up were children from BOSCO Vikas in the High School category. Children from BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan/Sneha Bhavan obtained first place and BOSCO Mane Children secured second place in the Primary School category. All the participants were appreciated for their participation.



## Children's Sports Day

BOSCO Bengaluru organized Children's Sports Day at BOSCO Sumanahalli on January 19, 2025. Addressing the children, the chief guest, Shri. Somashekar, Police inspector Kamakshipalya Bengaluru, said, "Winning or losing is not important, but participation is". The Olympic Torch was borne and lit by the leaders representing the centres and areas that BOSCO is associated with. Children and staff took oath during the programme under the leadership of Shivu Naik, Team Member, BOSCO Yuvakendra .



Various sports events like running races (100 mts, 200mts, 400mts and relay), long jump, tug of war, shot-put, musical chair, sack race, frog race, lemon and spoon race, etc. were organized for sub juniors, juniors and seniors. The winners were awarded medals and certificates by the Directors and staff. Over four hundred children from the centres and areas of intervention of BOSCO participated in the sports meet.



## Inter-Centre Cultural Competitions

The Inter-Centre Cultural Competition for children was held at BOSCO Sumanahalli, Bengaluru, on January 26, 2025. Smt. Malati Mysore, TV and Film Actor, Kannada Film Industry, the Special Guest expressed that God appeared in the form of BOSCO

to take care of such children. The competitions included group dances, mimes, and fancy dress for the juniors and seniors boys and girls respectively. All the Directors were present for the event. Over a hundred children participated in the competitions.



## Grand Finale of Children's Cultural Fest

BOSCO, Bengaluru organized the Grand Finale of Children's Cultural Fest at BOSCO Sumanahalli, Bengaluru on January 26, 2025. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO, Bengaluru, delivered the presidential address. Mr. Mime Gopi, South Indian Cine Star appreciated BOSCO and the performances of the children. Rev Fr. George Kannanthanam, Sumanahalli Society, Bengaluru, Fr. Philip were present on the occasion.

A month-long celebration that included quiz competition, children's sports day and inter-centre cultural competitions for the children culminated with the feast of Don Bosco. The winners of the competitions were awarded during the valedictory function. The results of the BOSCO Annual Essay Writing Competition were announced during the programme. Around five hundred children, friends and well-wishers of BOSCO gathered on the occasion.







## OTHER ACTIVITIES

### Karate Colour Belt Grading Exam

Karate Belt Grading Exam was organized by Marlinga at BOSCO Yuvaspandana, on January 5, 2025. Ms. Bindu, Coordinator, BOSCO Nilaya, welcomed the gathering. Fr. Deepu, Director, BOSCO Nilaya and Yuvaspandana spoke about self-defense, humility, and hard work. He said, 'Hard work always pays. Karate is mainly to empower the girl children to fight for their rights.' Karate Instructors and students performed inspiring Karate demo. Children performed exercises and warm-up katas in the group. Belt exam was conducted in the presence of Marlinga, Ningappa, Kavya, Gagan, Likith and Rakshith, Karate Instructors.



Belts and certificates were distributed to all. Sixty-one children were promoted to yellow belt. Forty children were given the orange belt, twenty-one

were promoted to green belt and one child was given the blue belt. Around hundred and twenty five children from BOSCO Nilaya, Rainbow Home, Vatsalya Bhavan, Yuvakendra and JC Road participated in the exam.

### Makkala Grama Sabhas

BOSCO CRISP Project participated in nine Makkala Grama Sabhas organized by Grama Panchayats in Nelamanagala and Bengaluru Urban during January 2025. These sabhas are aimed at providing children with a platform to express themselves, help build their confidence, self-esteem, and leadership skills. Children discussed ways to promote education and healthcare in their community, including organizing awareness campaigns and advocating for better facilities; building partnerships with local authorities to address child-related issues and promoting community development. These Grama Sabhas helped in promoting child participation, fostering community engagement and social responsibility, addressing pressing issues affecting children's lives and well-being and empowering them to become active agents of change in their communities.

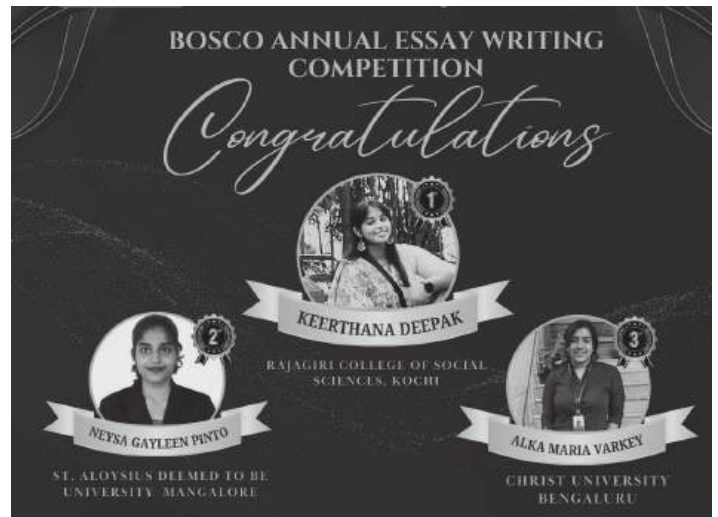
The Makkala Grama Sabhas saw the participation of the Presidents, Vice- Presidents, Secretaries and Panchayat Development Officers (PDO) of Grama Panchayats, school HMs and school and community children.



## BOSCO Annual Essay Writing Competition

Every year, BOSCO Bengaluru hosts an essay writing competition for college and university students, running from October to January. Approximately 150 colleges and universities from across India were contacted, inviting undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate students from various disciplines—including management, social work, sociology, journalism, economics, engineering, law, commerce, psychology, and life sciences—to participate. The purpose of this competition is to raise awareness among students about social issues relevant to contemporary society and provide them with a platform highlighting some important yet seldom-discussed issues that need more attention in today's educational, social, and cultural environments. The theme for this year was "Family is Where I Belong." Four significant social issues related to family were at the forefront of the competition: The right of a child to be with his/her family; Children in at-risk families; Children's rights in alternative care settings; Ensuring quality care and The role of the family in promoting the rights of the child.

The essays were judged by a panel of three external judges based on the criteria of originality of content, creativity, clarity of expression, adherence to the theme, and writing style. The first



prize was awarded to Ms. Keerthana Deepak from Rajagiri College of Social Sciences, Kochi, Kerala. The second place went to Ms. Neysa Gayleen Pinto from St. Aloysius Deemed to be University, Mangalore, while the third prize was secured by Ms. Alka Maria Varkey of Christ University, Bengaluru.

### Winners' Reflections...

#### Keerthana Deepak

"I participated in the essay competition conducted by BOSCO to challenge myself to think critically about social issues and express my thoughts clearly. The topic "Role of Family in the Promotion of the Rights of Child" resonated with me, and I felt compelled to address the alarming reality that millions of children worldwide are denied their basic rights, often within their own families. The severity of this issue cannot be overstated, as it has far-reaching consequences for a child's physical, emotional, and psychological well-being. Through the process of researching and writing the essay, I gained a deeper understanding of the complexities of family dynamics and developed my critical thinking, research, and writing skills. Winning the competition has been an honour, and I plan to use this experience to continue exploring the intersection of family, justice, and human rights, and potentially pursue a career in advocacy or policy-making, with the goal of making a positive impact on the lives of children and families through my writing and advocacy skills."

Keerthana Deepak is a BSc first year student of the Department of Psychology, Rajagiri College of Social Sciences, Kochi.



#### Neysa Gayleen Pinto

"I participated in this competition because I enjoy research and writing. I chose "Roots of Rights: The Family's Role in Nurturing and Protecting Children's Rights" because I firmly believe that a child's future is shaped by their upbringing. Families play a crucial role in ensuring a child's emotional, educational, and social development, and I wanted to highlight the responsibilities of parents and society in safeguarding children's rights. The issue of children's rights is significant, as many children face challenges such as neglect, abuse, lack of education, and poor healthcare due to family and societal shortcomings affecting their well-being and future opportunities, making it a pressing concern that needs continuous attention."

Writing this essay helped me refine my research skills, enhance my ability to structure arguments effectively, and deepen my understanding of legal and ethical aspects related to children's rights. In the future, I hope to contribute to policies, social programmes, or corporate social responsibility projects that focus on child rights and well-being."

Neya Gayleen Pinto is a third year B.Com student studying in St. Aloysius Deemed to be University, Mangalore.



#### Alka Maria Varkey

"BOSCO Bengaluru has been very close to my heart, and I have had the opportunity to visit their facilities as well as other organizations in and around Bengaluru that focus on child safety and welfare. Writing on this topic was not only an opportunity to contribute to an



important conversation but also an encouragement to explore my passion for advocacy through writing.

During my internships and fieldwork visits to various child care facilities, I observed the strengths and gaps of children's quality of care within the alternative care settings. Many children lack access to essential services, emotional support, and opportunities for holistic development highlighting the need for stronger policies,



better oversight, and more dedicated support systems for children in these environments. Much more needs to be done at a systemic level.

Writing this essay allowed me to dive deeper into the issue, explore relevant statistics, and gain a clearer understanding of the scope

and severity of the problem, while reinforcing my belief that writing can be a powerful tool for advocacy.”

Alka Maria Varkey is doing her Masters in Social Work from Christ University, Bengaluru.

## Certificate Distribution Ceremony

The Skill Training Unit of BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan organized a certificate distribution ceremony for the tailoring trainees who completed their course on February 6, 2025. A total of 18 trainees successfully completed the course and received their course completion certificates in recognition of their dedication and hard work.

On March 9, 2025, BOSCO Computer Training Project, located in



BOSCO Mane, Bengaluru, held a certificate distribution programme for students who completed a three-month Basics and Tally training course by Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru and Fr. KJ Joseph, Director, BOSCO Mane. A total of twenty-two students completed the computer course, with fourteen trainees present at the event.



## Focus Group Discussion at BOSCO Mane

Juvenile Advocacy Programme, BOSCO, Bengaluru, organized a focus group discussion with parents and children in conflict with law at BOSCO Mane, Bengaluru, on March 1, 2025. Mr. Ramaswamy, Coordinator, Juvenile Advocacy Programme exhorted parents to ensure that their children do not end up becoming habitual offenders. He spoke about the importance of child rearing and providing a good family environment to the children. He also spoke about the importance of children's follow-up and present situation of the non-serious offenses. Ms. Pavitra and Ms. Sujatha, Enfold Team conducted the discussions separately with the parents and children. Effective measures for dealing with children involved in non-serious cases without resorting to judicial proceedings were looked into. Attitudes, perceptions, motivations, concerns and opinions of the participants were taken into consideration. The resource person asked the parents to immediately contact BOSCO whenever they required assistance. She asked the children to make use of the services of BOSCO for counseling and vocational



training. One parent requested for the educational support of their child. Six parents and their children participated in the discussion.

## SUCCESS STORY

### Purvi's Journey from Adversity to Aspiration

Purvi (Name Changed), a 17-year-old girl from Bengaluru, comes from a financially struggling family. Her mother, the primary breadwinner, works in a hospital, while her father is a daily wage labourer struggling with alcoholism. Her elder brother works at a printing shop to support the family. They live in a rented house,

facing financial hardships. Purvi was not keen on her studies during childhood. She often skipped school to watch television, cartoons, or accompany her mother to temples and social functions. This absenteeism resulted in her falling behind academically, ultimately

leading to her dropping out in 10th grade. In her 10th standard, she believed that her frequent illnesses were due to black magic cast by a neighbour, which further affected her ability to continue attending school. Purvi formed friendships that led her into unsafe situations. Along with a friend, she planned to explore Bengaluru city with their boyfriends.

However, the trip took a distressing turn when she encountered painful incidents, including misbehaviour by the boy she trusted. While roaming in the city, Purvi was found by the BOSCO Rescue team who after the necessary procedures, transferred her to BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan. At BOSCO, Purvi found a safe and nurturing environment where she could rebuild her life. The organization provided her with counselling, guidance, and skill development opportunities. She enrolled in tailoring training programme and

successfully completed it. Encouraged by her newfound skills, she further pursued learning Aari work design. Today, Purvi is a skilled artisan with aspirations of becoming a fashion designer. She wants to open her own tailoring shop thereby contributing to her family's financial stability. She is determined to make her parents proud by building a successful career in fashion and design. Purvi's journey exemplifies the transformative impact of BOSCO in empowering vulnerable youth. The intervention not only rescued her from potential dangers but also guided her toward a promising future. She is now confident, and grateful to BOSCO for helping her turn her life around. Purvi's story is a testament to resilience and the power of second chances. Her journey from adversity to ambition highlights the importance of organizations like BOSCO in shaping the lives of at-risk youth and helping them build a brighter future.

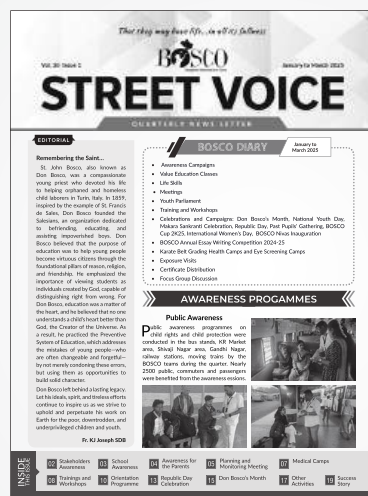
## Kudos to BOSCO Mane and Vikas Children!

Seventeen children of BOSCO Mane and Vikas participated in the Taekwondo competition organized by Prince Club in C.V. Raman

Nagar on January 12, 2025 and won 6 gold, 2 silver and 9 bronze medals.



“  
**“RUN, JUMP, HAVE ALL THE FUN  
 YOU WANT AT THE RIGHT TIME,  
 BUT, FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, DO NOT  
 COMMIT SIN!”**  
**DON BOSCO**  
 ”



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